

APPENDIX

Excerpts from the *Report of the Advisory Committee on Organization* (June 11, 1946)

[15]

V. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE.

In order to frame the recommendations for a modern structure for the Red Cross, the Committee, in line with the task outlined by the Chairman, adopted the three following objectives:

1) That the Red Cross will truly represent the Nation it serves;

2) That the governing organization will truly represent, and be responsive to, the entire membership of the Red Cross;

3) That the organizational structure of the Red Cross will lend itself to the most effective possible handling of the programs and activities of the Red Cross.

Each of these objectives presents a separate problem.

The first objective requires a recognition of the national stature of the Red Cross and of the national interests in aid of which the Red Cross now functions, both in time of peace and in time of war. The foregoing analysis of Red Cross programs indicates that while the organization has advanced far beyond the initial limited concept of a Red Cross society as an agency for the relief of sick and wounded military personnel, it still performs important functions under international treaties in time of war. It also in World War II greatly extended the relief to the families of

military personnel and contemplates extensive service to veterans during the post-war period. It has also assumed certain commitments in the international relief field. In conducting this type of activity the Red Cross functions as an agency of the Federal Government. It would therefore seem that to meet the first objective the organization should afford proper representation of the national interest at large.

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[20] COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF
GOVERNORS—PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

*Recommendation No. 2. The Charter should provide that of the Board of Governors of 50, eight members shall be selected by the President of the United States, of whom one shall be designated by him as President of the Red Cross. The remaining seven shall be selected from departments and agencies of the Federal Government. Of these seven, at least one and not more than three shall be selected from the armed forces, and the remainder shall be officials whose positions and interests are such as to qualify them to contribute toward the accomplishment of Red Cross programs and objectives.**

It is the belief of the Committee that, as laid down in the objectives which it has set to guide its recommendations, the organization should be truly representative of the membership of the Red Cross and of the various national interests and elements which it serves.

The American Red Cross is, and will continue to be, it is assumed, the agency of the Government of the United States for the performance of certain of

* Approved by the Central Committee without change.

the treaty obligations assumed by the United States under the Geneva Convention. The American Red Cross, it is assumed, will continue also to be the agency of the United States in the performance of certain services to the armed forces in time of war, and to the armed forces and veterans in time of peace. These responsibilities of the Red Cross, as well as responsibilities in the fields of disaster relief, health and welfare, require a close affiliation with the Federal Government which can be best brought about by the continuation in the [21] Charter of provisions requiring the naming of a portion of the governing body by the President of the United States.

It is thought that adequate representation of the interests of the Federal Government and its various agencies which directly touch the American Red Cross can be achieved through a membership of 7 on a governing body of 50.

At least one member of the armed forces should be required to be named by Charter provision, but selections from the other departments or agencies of the Government should be left within the discretion of the President of the United States, who would, in making his selections from time to time, take into account the areas of activity of the Red Cross most closely touching the Federal Government.

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[35] SUIT IN THE FEDERAL COURTS.

*Recommendation No. 22. The Charter should make it clear that the Red Cross can sue and be sued in the Federal Courts.**

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The present Charter gives the Red Cross the power "to sue and be sued in courts of law and equity within the jurisdiction of the United States". The Red Cross has in several instances sued in the Federal Courts, and its powers in this respect have not been questioned. How- [36] ever, in view of the limited nature of the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts it seems desirable that this right be clearly stated in the Charter.

